



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 374-A  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

**Monday, January 14, 2013**

**10:00 AM**

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-0447)

**Attachments:** [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chair Geneva Berger, Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg, Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Daphne Ng, Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq., Commissioner Sandra Rudnick, Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW and Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell

Excused: Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang and Commissioner Dr. La-Doris McClaney

Call to Order. (13-0088)

**The meeting was called to order at 10:16 a.m.**

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Introduction of January 14, 2013 Meeting attendees. (13-0079)

**Self-Introductions were made.**

2. Approval of the January 14, 2013 Meeting Agenda. (13-0080)

**On motion of Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, seconded by Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Kang and McClaney, being absent), this item was approved.**

3. Approval of the minutes from the Meeting of December 17, 2012. (13-0081)

**On motion of Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell, seconded by Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Kang and McClaney, being absent), this item was approved.**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

## **II. REPORTS**

4. Chair's report for January 14, 2013 by Geneva Berger, Chair. (13-0087)

**Chair Berger reported the following:**

- **Dr. Harriette Williams will be presented a scroll from the Board of Supervisors at the next Commission meeting scheduled for January 28, 2013. Commissioners are invited to attend a luncheon hosted by Commissioners Biondi and Curry honoring Dr. Williams following this meeting. Commissioners can confirm their attendance to the luncheon with Commission staff.**
- **The DCFS Strategic Plan Action Team meetings are kicking-off. Notification of these meetings to participating Commissioners are being handled by Commission staff. Therefore, Commissioners were reminded to let staff know if they are attending.**
- **On January 15, 2013, a motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich on supporting the long-term success of young adults and transitional age youth is on the Board of Supervisors agenda for consideration.**

**Commissioner Curry responded to questions posed by the Commission regarding the motion.**

**By common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.**

5. DCFS Director's report for January 14, 2013 by Philip Browning, Director, DCFS. (13-0082)

**Director Browning reported the following:**

- **The DCFS Strategic Plan Objective Team meetings are underway. Training was provided to the Strategic Plan Team Leaders.**

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- DCFS reorganization plan is expected to be implemented by the end of January 2013. Some Department changes include a shift in responsibilities for Senior Management.
  - The recently released State budget did not have a significant impact other than the realignment of funding for DCFS. The Chief Executive Office (CEO) sent out a budget update that indicates the changes. Initial funding has been established for implementing a new Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS). The current CWS/CMS system platform is outdated. The determined amount of funding is uncertain; however, it appears that the identified funding is a start-up amount sufficient for the State to move forward with implementation of the new system. Director Browning requested DCFS involvement in the development of the new system and anticipates that a DCFS person will be designated to work on this initiative on a full-time basis.
  - The Board approved the replacement system for Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) called the LEADER Replacement System (LRS). This new system will have a significant impact on the DCFS' payment processing. The current DPSS system is outdated. Designated DCFS staff will assist with this initiative.
  - Approximately, 1,000 new printers are being installed in DCFS offices to replace outdated machines.
  - The Federal Congress approved a revision to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) that allows the child welfare system immediate access to school records. Currently, school records are only accessible through court orders that specifically reference authorization of DCFS to a specified school system. Unless there is DCFS staff located on the school site, it has been challenging to access school records. There have been efforts to automate process for accessing school records. For example, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) recently provided a demo illustrating their forthcoming automation of the process; however, at this time there are approximately only 1,000 cases that include the court authorization that would be recognized by LAUSD. The hope was that the revised legislation would mitigate this challenge; however, State legislation needs to be in conformity with Federal legislation. State legislation previously allowed access to school records. However, in 2012, the State revised legislation to be consistent with the previous Federal legislation. Now that FERPA has been revised, the State law will need to be amended too.

**In response to questions posed by the Commission regarding the Court system including authorization in the orders, Director Browning responded with the following:**

- **Many of the youth have been in the system prior to the decision to include specific authorization in the court order. An existing blanket order by Judge Nash that intended to allow DCFS access to the records was found to be insufficient by the school systems. The schools are concerned that the Federal and/or State law prohibits them from providing the records.**
- **DCFS has begun participation on the Sex Trafficking Committee. The Federal government has taken a renewed interest in this issue. Currently, there are not many programs established throughout the country that the County could use as a model. DCFS may be getting Federal assistance to review its current processes when dealing with sex trafficking issues.**

**Commissioner Biondi added that currently there are Federal grants administered through the State for pilot programs to be implemented by the Probation Department and Court system.**

**In response to questions posed by the Commission, Director Browning responded with the following:**

- **The Board reviewed legislation drafted by County Counsel in terms of locked facilities to mitigate sex trafficking among youth; however, there are several logistical questions in terms of how a locked facility will operate.**

**Commissioner Biondi suggested visiting Vista Del Mar, which is a community treatment facility.**

- **In terms of placement, it is DCFS' first priority to place youth within their community.**

**After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.**

### **III. PRESENTATION**

**6. Presentation by the Los Angeles County Policy Roundtable for Child Care on the Impacts of Child Care Funding.**

- Jacquelyn McCroskey, D.S.W., Chair (13-0304)

**Ms. McCroskey reported the following:**

- **In 2012, California was successful in getting Federal funding for early education in 15 counties that implemented an initial process of improving quality ratings; Los Angeles County was one of the 15 counties. In Los Angeles, there are two quality rating systems; 1) Steps to Excellence Program and 2) Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) funded by First 5 LA which, the State Department of Education required to be brought together. Through this funding, the population of childcare programs has the opportunity to expand and work with programs that service DCFS children.**
- **The Childrens' Data Network, a countywide initiative, originally referred to as Data Partnership, established a system for bringing together available data across multiple systems to inform policy decisions in a timely manner. This initiative is now in its second year of implementation and has established a Data Rapid Response Team that develops research projects, one of which is related to early childhood education.**
- **The report titled, "Shrinking Investments Yield Smaller Returns", is comprised of data collected from the Office of Childcare, Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) Headstart, Childcare Resource Center, and a survey conducted with childcare providers. This initial report mapped damage done to early childhood education programs between 2008 and 2011.**

**Key findings included:**

- **Between 2008 and 2011, the State cut funding for early care and education programs by \$1.2 billion, resulting in loss of access for over 100,000 children across California.**
- **Los Angeles County lost 22,000 licensed childcare spaces. Family childcare homes accounted for 15% of these losses. In Los Angeles County, the highest loss was in family daycare home providers.**
- **Low-income working class communities were impacted the greatest.**

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- In 2012, in response to the data and feedback from the early childcare community, the Board sent a letter to the Governor, requesting consideration of alternatives to the proposed budget cuts in subsidized childcare programs.
  - In December of 2012, Healthy City launched a website titled [www.savemyseat.org](http://www.savemyseat.org), which provides information on the impact the budget cuts had to the early child care and education system in Los Angeles County and the uneven distribution of cuts made.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. McCroskey responded with the following:

- The uneven loss of seats within the county is mainly caused by the differences in funding streams across communities. Some areas may not rely exclusively on need-based funding. The least amount of care is available for infants.
- There is a childcare alternative payment program available for children in the DCFS system; however, once the case is closed, the continuity of care is questionable.
- The level of education that is provided to children who are cared for by relative caregivers continues to be a concern.

Director Browning added that many parents choose a relative to care for their child to provide an income for the relative.

- Although the current standing, with the Governor's recently released budget, appears to keep childcare funding level, the greater issue is whether the "Administrative Restructuring" of subsidized childcare programs will shift the responsibility from the California Department of Education to county departments of social services throughout California.
- The research conducted for this initial report was made possible by the Policy Roundtable for Childcare and funding through First 5 LA. Currently, there are six Los Angeles County departments represented on the Policy Roundtable for Childcare.
- A State mandated Childcare Planning Committee for Los Angeles County was established to develop a Strategic Plan; however, the plan is not refined to specific communities.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments:    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

#### **IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM**

7. Discussion and approval of a letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding the importance of Mental Health Services for Children.

**Commissioner Sorkin made a recommendation that the second paragraph of the letter be approved with the following changes:**

As President Obama, Los Angeles County, and the nation search for ways to prevent these tragedies in the future and protect our children, the Commission for Children and Families urges the Board of Supervisors to continue ~~and expand mental health services to meet the needs of seriously troubled Transition-Age Youth~~ **to recognize the importance of prevention and early intervention programs for children and youth. We especially believe that more mental health services need to be developed and readily available to address the needs of troubled transition age youth.** We know that mental health issues begin very early in life; therefore, we need a system that focuses on prevention and early intervention for children and that provides a continuum of care throughout life. (13-0110)

**After discussion, at the recommendation of Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW and on motion of Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, seconded by Commissioner Sandra Rudnick, the letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding the importance of Mental Health Services for Children was approved with the changes noted above.**

Attachments:    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

**V. MISCELLANEOUS**

**Matters Not Posted**

8. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-0083)

**There were none.**

**Announcements**

9. Announcements for the meeting of January 14, 2013. (13-0084)

**Commissioner Sorkin announced that the Avenue 50 Studio, the Violence Intervention Program Forensic Center, and the Community based Assessment and Treatment Center at the LAC+USC Medical Center Outpatient Department are having an Art opening on January 25, 2013. Commission staff will provide Commissioners more details on event.**

**Public Comment**

10. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-0085)

**No members of the public addressed the Commission.**

**Adjournment**

11. Adjournment of the meeting of January 14, 2013. (13-0086)

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.**